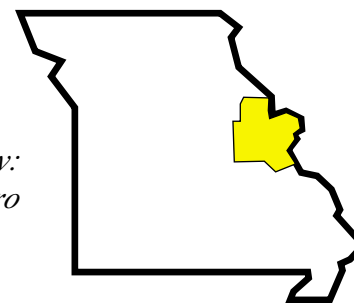


Missouri Department of Health 1998 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



*Regional Data Summary:
St. Louis Metro*

Although 85% of Missourians perceive themselves to be in good to excellent health, Missouri ranks above US rates for the leading causes of death—heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lung disease (emphysema). Research shows that most of these diseases are related to personal health behaviors. Smoking, a diet high in fat and low in

fruits and vegetables, obesity and sedentary life-style are the major contributors to poor health—yet these behaviors can be changed to improve one's well being.

In 1985, the Missouri Department of Health, in collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, began to gather information about these and other health

behaviors and practices among Missourians through the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

This report contains the results of the 1998 survey for the state and six regions. The good news is that regional data is similar to that of Missouri as a whole. The bad news is that Missouri is often among the leading states for the

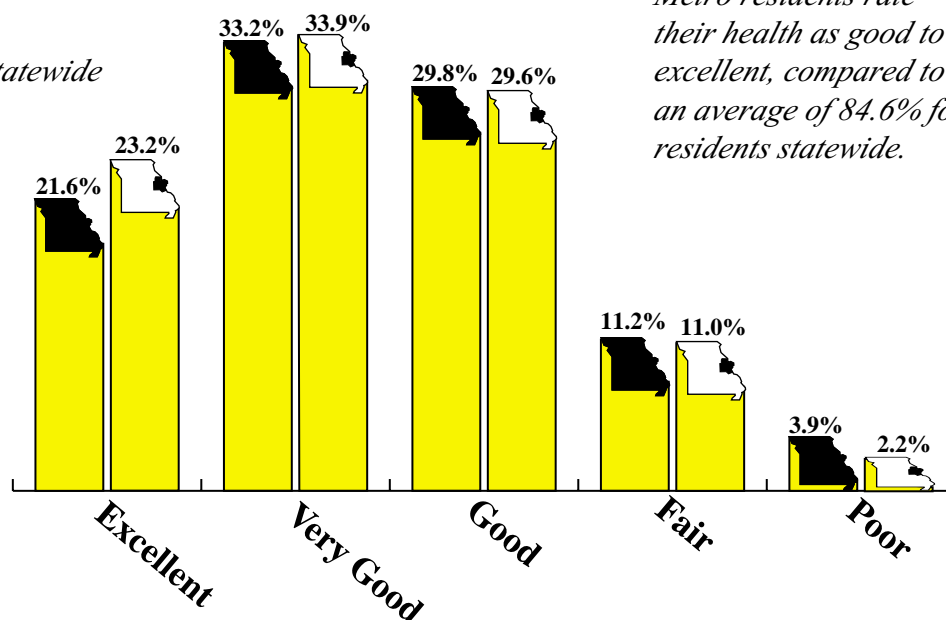
percentage of persons who smoke or are obese, among other unhealthy behaviors.

Therefore, although Missourians may “feel good,” their high rates of unhealthy life-style behaviors as well as premature deaths (before age 75) due to chronic diseases indicate that Missourians need to adopt healthier ways of living.

Perception of “Own Health”

**Would you say
that in general
your health is . . .**

*St. Louis Metro -vs- statewide
1998 BRFSS data*

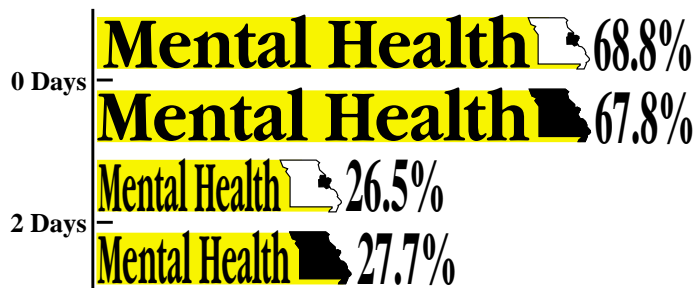
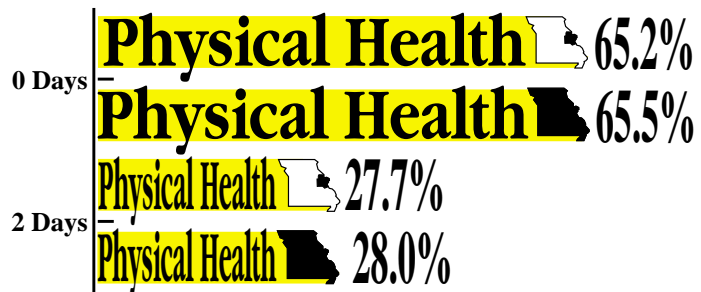


✓ *86.7% of St. Louis Metro residents rate their health as good to excellent, compared to an average of 84.6% for residents statewide.*

- ✓ 64.3% of Missouri residents statewide and 62.5% of St. Louis Metro residents said that they were not limited in their usual activities in the past month.
- ✓ On the question of how many days was your physical or mental health not good, the results were similar to those of the state.

How many days in the last month was your health not good . . .

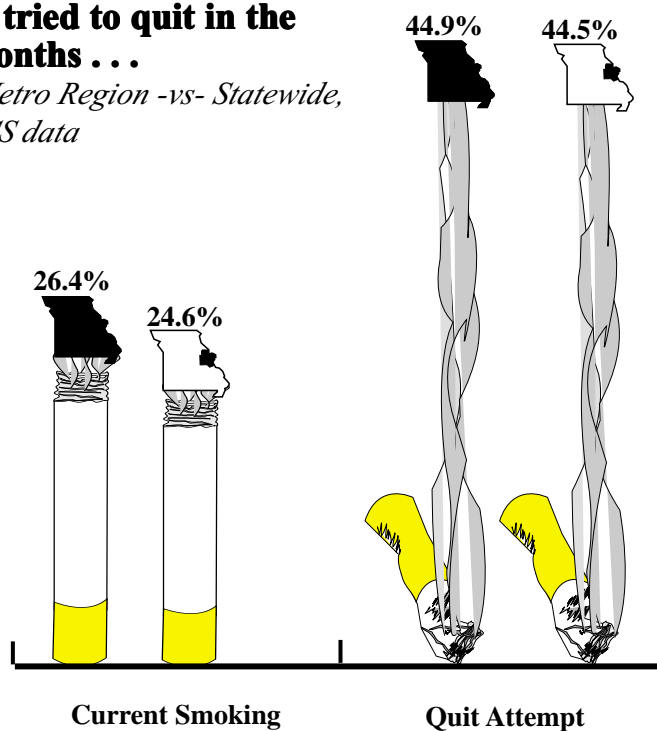
St. Louis Metro Region -vs- Statewide, 1998 BRFSS data



Tobacco Use

Do you currently smoke and have you tried to quit in the last 12 months . . .

St. Louis Metro Region -vs- Statewide, 1998 BRFSS data



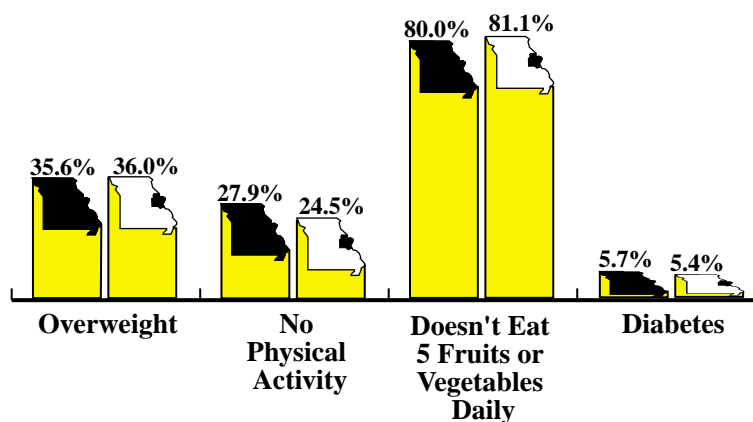
- ✓ St. Louis Metro residents smoke at a rate that is below the average for residents statewide.

Cardiovascular Disease Risk Reduction

- ✓ 64.4% of St. Louis Metro residents are eating fewer high fat or high cholesterol foods to lower risk of heart disease or stroke, while 51.1% say they exercise more.
- ✓ 25.0% of St. Louis Metro adults took aspirin daily or every other day.
- ✓ 4.3% report that they have had a heart attack and 1.3% have had a stroke.

Overweight, Physical Activity, Diet, and Diabetes . . .

*St. Louis Metro -vs- Statewide, 1998
BRFSS data*



- ✓ Among St. Louis Metro residents, 36.0% are overweight.
- ✓ Physical activity data reveal that 24.5% do not get any exercise at all, while only 30.1% exercise regularly.
- ✓ 37.1% eat green salad 3-6 times a week and 40.9% drink juice daily. However, 81.1% of Metro St. Louis residents do not eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables daily.
- ✓ 5.4% have been told by a doctor that they have diabetes.

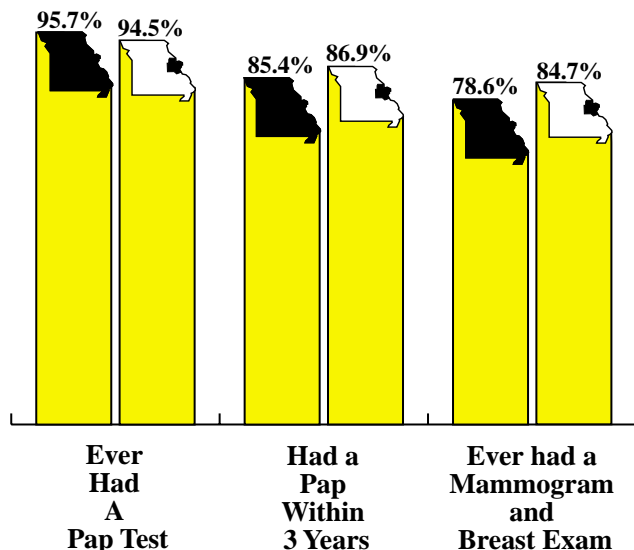
HIV/AIDS

- ✓ 40.8% of St. Louis Metro residents have been tested for HIV, while 5.7% consider themselves at medium to high risk of getting infected.
- ✓ 47.7% support HIV/AIDS education in 4th to 6th grades.
- ✓ 88.1% would advise a sexually active teenager to use a condom.

Women's Health

Pap, Mammogram, Breast Examination, how frequent? . . .

St. Louis Metro -vs- Statewide, 1998 BRFSS data



- ✓ *St. Louis Metro women are about as likely as all Missouri residents to have ever had a Pap test, but more likely to have had one in the last three years.*
- ✓ *St. Louis Metro women are more likely than all Missouri residents to have ever had a Mammogram and Clinical Breast Exam (CBE).*
- ✓ *St. Louis Metro women age 50 or greater were more likely to have had a Pap smear (72.6% -vs- 68.4%) within the last three years or Mammogram and CBE (75.9% -vs- 66.6%) within the last two years.*

Health Care Access/Utilization

- ✓ *During the past year, 71.4% of St. Louis Metro residents visited the doctor for a routine check-up.*
- ✓ *10.9% of St. Louis Metro residents do not have some kind of health care coverage.*

About the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

The Missouri Department of Health (MDOH) conducts ongoing surveillance with the assistance of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). MDOH staff randomly call about 4,200 Missourians during the year and request participation in the BRFSS. Interviewers ask questions related to health behaviors, screening, quality of life, mental health, impairment and access to health care and insurance.

For more information about any of these health topics or about the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, contact the public health department in your county. Additional information is available from the Missouri Department of Health, Division of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at (573)522-2800.

Counties of the St. Louis Metro:

Franklin, Jefferson, Lincoln, St. Charles, St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Warren